2015 Annual Staff Report
Southeast Conference, United Church of Christ

Executive Director of Theological Education and Dean of PATHWAYS
Rev. Sarah Kim, Th.D.

June 2, 2015

Greetings in the Spirit!

PATHWAYS, the leadership formation ministry of the Southeast Conference open to serving the wider United Church of Christ in providing quality education as a multiple path to authorized ministry in the UCC, has had a fruitful year since June of last year.

In August, twelve participants from the PATHWAYS community took a one-week trip to the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana, exploring the study topic of *Deep Symbols and Eco-Spirituality* in the Northwestern ethnic communities (American Indian and the Hutterites) and at the Glacier National Park. This was the official Global Theological Education (GTE) Immersion Trip for 2014, sponsored by PATHWAYS and the Brown Foundation.

We have celebrated our first two commencement services—in August 2014 (Level 2 participants) and in March 2015 (Level 1 participants); the graduates have now moved on to the advanced levels to continue their ministerial education. Also in March of 2015, PATHWAYS faculty and the Advisory Committee (PAC) members gathered at the Lake Lanier Conference Center for facilitator training and program visioning sessions. The leadership retreat entailed a time of community building and worship; the visioning discussion held by the PAC members served a meaningful and effective means to understanding the opportunities and challenges of doing online theological education while seeking the collaborative support of other UCC conferences.

All three levels (I, II, & III) of the PATHWAYS courses are now offered this year, and we are enthusiastically anticipating the commencement service for our first Level 3 graduates in November 2015. We hope to launch a new Level 1 cohort in Fall 2015 as we are currently accepting Level 1 application submissions.

This brief report on the PATHWAYS program comes to you from my home office in Duluth, GA, following my six-week trip to Korea and Japan which was the continuing education portion of a three-month sabbatical. I have so much to process both physically and spiritually (hopefully after I recover from jetlag) and I look forward to sharing my experiences upon my return to work on July 16.

I can be reached at skim@secucc.org if you have questions about the PATHWAYS ministry (www.tasc21.net). Thank you for your continued support and prayers!

Sincerely,

Sarah Kim